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BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF
GRACE H. CAMERON, R.N.

ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING. By Annie M. Brainerd. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price, \$1.35.

This is the second book in the series of Public Health Nursing Handbooks published under the able editorship of Mary S. Gardner, a series most timely, and of inestimable benefit to workers in a profession that is still in the process of evolution. The first book to be given in this series was *Industrial Nursing*, by Florence Swift Wright, reviewed in the October JOURNAL. *Organization of Public Health Nursing* is really the leading title of the series, for Public Health Nursing is the present appellation covering the entire field of social nursing activities, while the terms *Industrial Nursing*, *School Nursing*, etc., indicate the work of special and restricted divisions. Miss Brainerd, though not a nurse, has had extensive experience in working with public health nurses, as editor of their magazine, and is therefore able to "state clearly not only the general principles underlying all forms of systematized organization, but is also able to place at the disposal of those unused to such work, valuable suggestions regarding simple matters of detail on which depend success or failure." In a pleasing and interesting way the principles and procedures of organization; the business of directors; the need and duties of committees, and the importance of records and statistics are set forth. A number of charts are displayed which clearly illustrate the logical and orderly sequence of responsibility in the different forms of organization. Detailed plans, lists, and record cards are also presented. The book is endorsed by the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, and will be valuable to all workers in this broad field. The frontispiece reproduces the artistic and cleverly designed seal of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing with its inspiring motto, "When the Desire Cometh it is a Tree of Life."

SONGS OF A NURSE. By Margaret Helen Florine, R.N. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Philopolis Press, San Francisco, California. Price, \$1.10.

To the unthinking and unobservant public, the life of a nurse is humdrum and laborious; she is a trained and dependable person upon whom to lean when the family is anxiously watching a loved member broken and debilitated by disease, but that she has thoughts and aspirations beyond her patient is seldom recognized. In this little book we have demonstrated that, even in the midst of daily routine,

the nurse may see in the commonplace and sometimes irritating round of duties the fulfilment of ideals and the wise plan of an ever watchful, overruling Providence. The Songs of a Nurse are little verses for the most part concerned with everyday happenings of a nurse's life. They show a rare sympathy and a deep understanding of the thoughts and feelings of the many and varied broken beings brought to the hospital for repair. Many of the Songs are characterized by a subtle humor giving a light and joyous quality that is most delightful, making one remember Shakespeare's saying, "Sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not." Altogether they are a group of appealing little songs and will wake many echoes in the hearts of all nurses. The dainty binding and clear printing on heavy paper make it an inducement as a gift book.

BROKEN HOMES. A Study of Family Desertion and its Social Treatment. By Joanna C. Colcord. The Russell Sage Foundation, New York City. Price, 75 cents.

This is one of a series of studies dealing with Family Social Work, and appears simultaneously with another small volume,—A Digest of American Marriage Laws in Their Social Aspect. Miss Colcord, in a simple, straightforward presentation of this particular social plight, manifests a true sympathy and an intense desire for a just appraisal of the human weaknesses and adverse circumstances that lead to abandonment of family responsibilities. The study leads logically from the "Why do Men Desert Their Families?" through the "Investigation" of the case, to the "Details of Treatment," including both corrective and preventive treatment. A valuable book for social workers and an interesting book for those concerned with social reform.

THE AMERICAN POCKET MEDICAL DICTIONARY. Edited by W. A. Newman Dorland. Eleventh Edition revised. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. Price, Plain, \$1.75; Thumb Index, \$2.00.

For over twenty years nurses, especially, have known and used Dorland's Pocket Dictionary, so this eleventh edition will be widely welcomed. There have been sold to date over 185,000 copies of this most serviceable little book, containing the "pronunciation and definition of all the principal terms used in medicine, surgery, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing and kindred sciences, with over 60 extensive tables." It is as heretofore attractively bound in red flexible leather and contains an up-to-date vocabulary.